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Castleland Resource
Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

July 10, 1996

Mr. Joel Berg
USDA AmeriCorps
AG Box 1301
Washington, D.C. 20251
Rm 536-A

Dear Joel,

Greetings from Utah. We are baking in summer heat of over 100 degrees (which is great for melon farmers because it makes the melons grow)!

I am writing to let you know that one of our AmeriCorps members resigned after completing 650 hours of service. This member is not eligible for any portion of an educational award. In speaking with Mr. Larry Holmes, he indicated we could refill the position on a half time basis (900 hours). It is my intent to fill the position immediately.

Please let me know if you have questions or if there are additional steps we should take (or if there is a chance we could get more than 900 hours approved). Hope you are having a great summer in the Washington heat (and humidity)!

Sincerely,



Kresha Eastman
Project Director
Utah USDA AmeriCorps

cc: Larry Holmes

P.S. Thank you for writing letters to the three law schools in which Charles Wade (AmeriCorps member) had been accepted. Charles received permission to defer enrollment to 1997 from two of the schools. He plans to reapply to the third school as it is in his home state of Arkansas. He is also planning on applying to the University of Utah so maybe we will get to keep him close to us. Your help with this issue is appreciated.



USDA AMERICORPS
MEMBER SEMI-ANNUAL PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL

NAME: Whitney Rearick DATE: 9/25/96
LOCATION: Moab/Price UT SITE #: _____

	Yes	No
1. Is Member's work neat, accurate, & complete?	☒	☐
2. Is Member prompt in completing job tasks?	☒	☐
3. Does Member take initiative?	☒	☐
4. Does Member readily accept responsibility?	☒	☐
5. Does Member follow instructions accurately?	☒	☐
6. Is Member punctual?	☒	☐
7. Is Member absent from place of work for unauthorized intervals?	☐	☒
8. Does Member follow appropriate safety procedures?	☒	☐
9. Does Member wear appropriate clothing for tasks?	☒	☐
10. Does Member participate in training sessions?	☒	☐
11. Does Member accept constructive criticism and take steps for improvement?	☒	☐
12. Is Member cooperative?	☒	☐
13. Does Member appear to have a good attitude?	☒	☐
14. Does Member work well with others?	☒	☐
15. Does Member show respect for others?	☒	☐
16. Do you feel that the Member is well placed?	☒	☐
17. Does the Member display a desire to participate in National Service?	☒	☐
18. Would you recommend this person for a second term?	☒	☐
19. Did Member contribute to meeting objectives?	☒	☐
20. Other?	☐	☐

[Signature]
(Supervisor's Signature)

9/25/96
(Date)

Whitney Rearick
(Member's Signature)

9/25/96
(Date)

(Place any comments on back of form.)

Did best: Very resourceful at finding information and putting people in contact w/ resources.

Believes strongly in mission of AmeriCorps and national service.

Doesn't take self too seriously - can make situations humorous.

Computer skills & desire to stay up w/ technology.

Would change/improve: Increased focus on finding key people to get jobs done - got delayed because some people were slow/uncooperative.

Learned that didn't know nearly as much as thought she did about community development.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

March 22, 1996

TO: Kresha Eastman, AmeriCorps Project Director, NRCS, Utah
THRU: Paula Cole Jones, AmeriCorps Project Manager, NRCS,
Washington, D.C.
FROM: Joel Berg, USDA Director of National Service

Your request to add one full-time position to your team is approved.

Feel free to contact me if I can be of further service.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Soil
Conservation
Service

Castleland RC&D
P.O. Box 141
Price, Utah 84501

October 4, 1995

Ron DeMunbrun
Rm. 544A Admin.
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
14th and Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. DeMunbrun,

I am writing to inform you that an AmeriCorps member from the Utah USDA Rural Development team has accepted a team leader position with AmeriCorps NCCC. Mr. D. Sam Sellers completed 1615 hours of direct service with USDA AmeriCorps at the time of his transfer to NCCC.

As the USDA AmeriCorps project director in Utah, and Sam's direct supervisor, I am recommending that Sam receive an educational award of no less than \$4,488.75 (95 percent of \$4,725.00). If policy permits, I strongly recommend that Sam receive 100 percent of his educational award.

Sam's transfer from Utah USDA AmeriCorps to AmeriCorps NCCC was arranged by Mr. Joel Berg during his visit to Utah. If you have specific questions about circumstances involved in Sam's transfer, please contact me.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kresha Eastman
Project Director
Utah USDA AmeriCorps

cc: D. Sam Sellers
Lloyd Wilhelm
Paula Cole-Jones
Benito Mar



The Soil Conservation Service
is an agency of the
United States Department of Agriculture



NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

April 25, 1995

Where: Our Ranch San Juan, Inc.
Browning Ranch
333 Browning Parkway
Farmington, New Mexico

When: Tuesday, April 25, 1995
8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Project Coordinators: Shantel Farnsworth
AmeriCorps
RECD
504 North Main
Aztec, New Mexico 87410

Erick Aune
AmeriCorps
NRCS
504 North Main
Aztec, New Mexico 87410

Number of AmeriCorps Members Present:
20

USDA AmeriCorps Projects Represented:
RECD, NRCS, USFS, RC&D, EDD, BIA

Counties of the Duty Stations of USDA AmeriCorps Members:
San Juan, NM La Plata, CO Sandoval, NM

Non-USDA AmeriCorps Projects Represented:
Navajo Nation AmeriCorps

Total Number of Participants:
83

Total Number of Project Sponsors:
23

GETTING THINGS DONE...

The Four Corners AmeriCorps Rural Development Team showed true AmeriCorps spirit for National Day of Service. AmeriCorps Members, Shantel Farnsworth and Erick Aune of Aztec, New Mexico, coordinated a large scale service project for their community. The day was a success, with 83 participants and 23 sponsors involved in the activities and an estimated value of \$ 10,000.00 for the days services.

The project benefited Our Ranch San Juan, Inc., an organization directed in helping disadvantaged and at-risk youth by interaction with horses and other animals. Our Ranch San Juan, Inc. began as a vision by Bob Browning, who holds the philosophy that through horses and other animals people can find their roots, solve social problems and establish community bonds. Through horsemanship skills, Browning hopes to provide an opportunity for disadvantaged youth to develop positive relationships with the animals. Eventually Our Ranch will provide youth employment, family recreation, retiree activities, a petting zoo, a community garden and livestock production.

Preparation for National Day of Service began long before April 25, 1995. In March, AmeriCorps Members began planning the activities, reaching sponsors, recruiting volunteers and informing the community about the upcoming event. With the support of the community, AmeriCorps Members were able to complete five projects in one day of service and helped the organizers of Our Ranch San Juan, Inc. get a well deserved push toward success.

National Day of Service began with an organizational

meeting for AmeriCorps Members and Site Leaders. This meeting coordinated all efforts for the day by determining how many volunteers and what kind of supplies were needed for each site and what the schedule for the day would entail. When the volunteers began to arrive they were delegated a project site and given instruction on what their duties were.

Project # 1 was the laying of an irrigation pipe line. AmeriCorps Members, DWI Treatment Center Inmates and volunteers had to clean out and prepare a trench, lay and connect over 300 feet of pipe, shoot the pipe line to ensure flow and drainage of the water and backfill the trench by hand. All the volunteers worked extremely hard and finished the project by 2:00 p.m. that afternoon. The pipe line will be used to irrigate the petting zoo, a wind break and the community garden.

Project # 2 was the painting of 2 picnic tables, a picnic shelter and the entrance gateway to the ranch. All of the supplies for the painting project were donated by local businesses. A thirteen year old boy lead AmeriCorps members in the activities. Cory, whose father donated an airless painting machine, was able to take charge of the project and did a wonderful job. The painting project entailed preparing the entire site for painting by sanding and scraping off old paint and debris. Then Cory worked wonders with his airless paint sprayer and completed the project in half the time it would have taken if volunteers would have had to do the painting by hand. The picnic area is located by a pond and will provide a beautiful setting for families to spend quality time together.

Project # 3 was a general beautification of the ranch. Members and a group of 12 year old students from Nenahnezud Boarding School picked up trash, trimmed and hauled off dead tree limbs and picked thousands of weeds. This project lasted all day but was well worth the volunteers time. With their efforts the ranch was rid of 25 bags of trash, trimmed 4 trees and removed weeds from

the picnic site and surrounding areas.

Project # 4 was the plan and design of a petting zoo. AmeriCorps Member Todd Tucker used his landscape architectural skills to design a petting zoo for the ranch. When complete, the petting zoo will provide hours of entertainment for families visiting the ranch.

Project # 5 was the construction of a public bathroom. A local contractor donated his crew to do the construction and all of the supplies were donated by local lumber companies. This was the most important contribution by the community because no public facility can be without a bathroom. Although the bathroom is not yet operable because it is lacking a septic system, it gave the organizers of Our Ranch San Juan, Inc. a tremendous head start. The estimated donation of this project is \$ 5,000.00.

Other events of the day included a live radio broadcast from a local radio station. The radio station agreed to this \$ 1,000.00 donation because they believe that national service is important and would like to continue their participation and grow with National Day of Service in the years to come. The Our Ranch San Juan, Inc. and AmeriCorps Members also gave tours to all community members who came to visit the ranch. On the tours, visitors were able to see the facility, be educated at the Emu display, play with animals at a temporary petting zoo, ride a long horn steer and of course volunteer!

With all the hard work that the AmeriCorps Members and volunteers did they still managed to enjoy themselves. After the projects for the day were complete a few Members elected to take advantage of the services of Our Ranch San Juan, Inc. and rode horses and the long horned steer.

Without the support AmeriCorps Members received from the community the day would not have been a success. Not

only did local businesses donate all the necessary supplies, they also donated food and drinks for everyone who participated. Volunteers were well nourished with doughnuts, pizza, fruit, candy and drinks. The media also did not let the AmeriCorps effort go unnoticed. Members were able to participate in two radio talk shows and three television news broadcasts.

The accomplishments of National Day of Service at Our Ranch San Juan, Inc. truly shows the spirit of AmeriCorps. The day was a great success and The Four Corners AmeriCorps Rural Development Team is honored to be able to help our communities help themselves.

National Day of Service

Participant List

Four Corners AmeriCorps

Shantel Farnsworth, RECD Aztec, New Mexico
Erick Aune, NRCS Aztec, New Mexico
Ana Gomes, NRCS Aztec, New Mexico
Laura Horochowski, NRCS Aztec, New Mexico
Carla Garrison, USFS Mancos, Colorado
Ollie Powers, San Juan RC & D Durango, Colorado
Agnes Suazo, Southern Ute Indian Tribe Durango, Colorado
Tim Richard, USFS Durango, Colorado
Jason DeHerrera, RECD Bernalillo, New Mexico
Todd Tucker, USFS Durango, Colorado
Shannon Manfredi, Region 9 EDD Durango, Colorado
Amy Callard, Region 9 EDD Durango, Colorado
Dale White, BIA Ute Mtn, Ute Agency Towaoc, Colorado

Navajo Nation AmeriCorps

Shelly Yazzie, Shiprock, New Mexico
Codey Morgan, Shiprock, New Mexico
Carla Bulletts, Shiprock, New Mexico
Cornelia Nez, Shiprock, New Mexico
Pedro Tom, Shiprock, New Mexico
Andy Stauffer, Shiprock, New Mexico
Aluim Peshlakai, Shiprock, New Mexico

Our Ranch San Juan, Inc.

Bob Browning
John Yokie
John Cater
Bellamie Mason

Ralph Mason
Yvette Jonsson
Susan LaBarge
Pam Iraci

San Juan College

Nancy Pate, SJC Volunteer Center
Bretton Cartwright
Melanie Lewis
Betty Betah
Gary Lee
Harold Pine

Vista Volunteers

Nancy Larson
Wilene
Marcus

Nenahnezud Boarding School

Lori Stefanon, Teacher
Jackie Stefanon, Teacher
Pruda Trujillo, Teacher
Students:

Joseph Allen
Erwin Arviso
Lindsey Badoni
Ryan Begay
Clara Benally
Rayburn Burke
Malcolm Charley
Aaron Chee
Leatrice Claw
Kurt Daukel
Cristalyn Denetclaw
Gilbert Harvey
Davina Joe

Orlando John
Johnathon Josea
Ella Sims
Katara Sylvester
Malcolm Thompson
Corena Upshaw
Nathaniel Yazzie
Wilhena Jim
Marcus Jackson
Cornelia Nez
Dietrich Daukei
Jackie Sandoval

City of Farmington DWI Treatment Center

Donald Harris
Joseph Jose
Leroy Atcitty
Harold Yazzie
Donald Chee

Community Members

Ray Hood, SMR Emu
Sandra Hood, SMR Emu
Susan Mc Farland
Cory Boehue
Jerry Alexander, Rocky Mountain Inspection
Shelli Cravens
Jackie Tixton
Michael Nix
Eldon DeHerrera
Jim Jackson
Charisse Kaplan
Tony Wootten, A U Rent It
Laurie Stefanon

National Day of Service

Sponsor List

Farmington Clean and Beautiful

Sam's Club

Little Caesar's Pizza

Y & S Candies

Garden Fresh Fruit Market

AC Houston Lumber Company

Farmington Hardware and Lumber

Amoco Production Company

Bond Paint Company

Wellborn Paint

All Paint Supply Company

KRWN Radio

Farnsworth Enterprises, Inc.

Waste Management of Four Corners

Serrano's Portable Toilets

Rocky Mountain Inspection

Construction Supply

Sherwin-Williams Company

Spudnuts

San Juan College Maintenance Crew

A U Rent It

U S Airweld

Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association

NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE APRIL 25, 1995

AmeriCorps members and The San Juan College Volunteer Center invite all members of the community to join us at Our Ranch San Juan Inc. in Farmington, Tuesday April 25th for a day of volunteer service.

Our mission is to organize the community for a day of service and help the organizers of Our Ranch get a well deserved push toward success.

Our Ranch San Juan Inc. began as a vision by Bob Browning who holds the philosophy that through horses and other animals people can find their roots, solve social problems and establish community bonds. Through horsemanship skills Browning hopes to provide an opportunity for disadvantaged youth to interact with and develop positive relationships with the animals. Eventually Our Ranch will provide youth employment, family recreation, retiree activities, a petting zoo, a community garden and livestock production.

When: 8:30AM-6:00PM, Tuesday April 25th

Where: Browning Ranch at 333 Browning Parkway
Farmington, New Mexico 87401

For more information contact
AmeriCorps members, Erick Aune at (505) 334-1482
or Shantel Farnsworth at (505) 334-9438.

Please join us for an opportunity to share your community spirit helping Our Ranch help our children and having a fun time doing so.

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:
National Day of Service!**

**Contact: 334-9438 or
334-1482**

To be aired now through April 25th

What: National Day of Service

When: Tuesday, April 25th, 1995, 8:30AM to 6:00PM

Where: Our Ranch San Juan Inc.
Browning Ranch
333 Browning Parkway
Farmington, NM 87401

Why: To organize the community for a day of service and help the organizers of Our Ranch get a well deserved push toward success.

Who: AmeriCorps members, Shantel Farnsworth, (505) 334-9438 or Erick Aune, (505) 334-1482.

Join us at **Our Ranch in Farmington, Tuesday April 25th**, for a day of community service. Our Ranch, developed by Bob Browning serves to help at risk youth establish relationships between themselves and the animals at the Ranch. Our Ranch will be dedicated to providing horsemanship skill while helping youth find their roots, solve social problems and establish community bonds.

A day at the Ranch will consist of sharing hands on projects with all members of the community including state and local public officials, educators, local businesses, community organizations and you. Lunch will be provided for volunteers as well as educational tours of the Ranch and its facilities.

NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE**APRIL 25, 1995****OUR RANCH****BROWNING RANCH****333 BROWNING PARKWAY****FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO 87410**

7:45 A.M.	COORDINATORS AND SITE SUPERVISORS MEETING
	PREPARE FOR VOLUNTEERS
8:30 A.M.	VOLUNTEERS ARRIVE
	BREAK INTO GROUPS FOR SITE PROJECTS
8:45 A.M.	INSTRUCTION ON PROJECT SITE
9:00 A.M.	BEGIN WORK
10:30 A.M.	BREAK
10:45 A.M.	RETURN TO WORK
12:00 P.M.	LUNCH
1:00 P.M.	RETURN TO WORK
3:00 P.M.	BREAK
3:15 P.M.	RETURN TO WORK
5:00 P.M.	BREAK/WRAP UP
	ENTERTAINMENT
6:00 P.M.	END OF DAY

Marie Larson - personal statement

Upon entering the AmeriCorps program, I was under the impression that I was to play an important role in the functioning and support of the Watershed. I was asked to join in the education part of the Watershed and use my knowledge and past experiences to help educate the children about the world outside and what a valuable resource nature can be. During this past year I feel that my expectations have been met and that I have been able to contribute a great deal. As an education major I wanted to be able to use what I had learned in the classroom, but I also wanted to learn more. By working at the Watershed I have had the opportunity to teach so many different children from varying backgrounds - the inner city to the more rural areas of the state. I consider this experience to be invaluable, not only from the knowledge gained about nature, but also from the standpoint of practical experience - something which is necessary but often hard to get without some prior experience. AmeriCorps has helped to eliminate some of that Catch-22 in giving me the chance to gain experience in my career. The feedback from the Watershed has also been wonderful in that I am able to see that I've made a difference - there has been over a thirty percent increase in programs taught to children over the past three months (comparing this to the same time period last year). With the additional staff there are less groups that are turned away and more children are able to experience for themselves the wonder of the outside world. I feel that AmeriCorps has made a difference in my life and has helped me prepare myself for my future career in teaching, and I appreciate the chance I have been given.

A Season of Service- and Then Some...

I recall very vividly the skepticism I faced from relatives and friends upon joining AmeriCorps. What is a college graduate doing accepting a minimum wage temporary position? Shouldn't I be exploring more productive options... perhaps I should just go right on into graduate school... what was I possibly looking to gain out of the experience. It's funny, at the time I just came back with my standard reply of how this was about something bigger than me- about beginning to contribute my part to making this world a better place, about taking nine months and doing something instead of sitting in an air conditioned office and complaining (and it has been)- and it would provide me with funds for graduate school. This reaction of course brought on the response of, "Yeah, ok, whatever Laurie, we'll see what you have to say after 9 months." If I only knew then, what I know now, I could have informed these naysayers that AmeriCorps would also provide me with concrete skills and experience which would be hard to find anywhere else.

I have learned more in the past nine months about project development and implementation, fundraising, public outreach and volunteer recruitment and retention- then I could've imagined. Just for the record, here's a very partial listing, a top 20 in no particular order: **I have learned...**

- 1) to hammer nails without hitting my fingers too many times
- 2) to streamwalk and to compile information which would allow others to do the same
- 3) that blisters heal
- 4) how to write a grant proposal
- 5) how to perform chemical tests of waterways
- 6) what a riparian corridor is - and how and why it should be protected
- 7) to use a chain saw
- 8) about the functioning of and art/creativity involved with problem solving and cost effectiveness in non-profit organizations
- 9) to communicate more effectively with others and the importance of team work
- 10) how projects can be efficiently structured and executed
- 11) more about municipal ordinances and regulations than I ever dreamed possible
- 12) to take a slide presentation on the road
- 13) how to create a brochure and a volunteer handbook
- 14) how to manage volunteers effectively
- 15) to bring press coverage to an event
- 16) to build a bridge and board walks for trails
- 17) to organize a mini-conference & assemble a bulk mailing
- 18) about myself
- 19) about others
- 20) to reopen my eyes to the beauty, wonder and magic of the natural world and to begin to learn things I never learned about it- through a teacher naturalist training program

Looking back on the past year, I've learned and experienced more than I could ever have dreamed possible. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to immerse myself in such a wonderful organization. Working at the Watershed and having the opportunity to learn from such a committed, professional and dedicated staff has been an absolutely tremendous experience for me. Just observing the staff in action was a fantastic education in itself. In addition, this experience with volunteerism has encouraged me to become an active volunteer with another local organization and to pursue a career within the non-profit sector.

So yes, I have made a difference, and will continue to do so. Even if I had known about the blisters, the back aches, and the index finger-hammered one too many times... I would have jumped at the chance in a second. This past year has had such a tremendous impact on me- how I view myself and my future- it has been more than a "season of service", it will be translated throughout the course of my lifetime.

Laurie
M. G. Martin

AMERICORPS UPDATE
June 17 - July 18, 1995

Eighth Official Americorps Update

RESERVE MANAGEMENT

-With the assistance of Jim and two other volunteers, all fifteen sections (ten feet in length each) of newly constructed boardwalk were laid in place over some of the muddiest sections of the Stony Brook Trail.

-The Four Seasons trail is once again passable thanks to Americorps and assistance from two members of the summer trail crew.

-Barbara and Brian trimmed the lawn w/weedwhacker and pushmower after Mr. Sacks' weekly visit.

-All helped in keeping our various flowerbeds and new Arboretum additions well watered.

-Brian and Barbara cleared Stinging Nettles, MultiFloral Rose, and other encroaching vegetation along the Stony Brook Trail to make way for summer campers.

-Overhanging branches along the Pond House Road also fell victim to Americorps' clippers.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

-Brian and Marie moved all of Pat's heavy furniture during her recent office relocation to the second floor of the Main Office.

-The Watershed's Volunteer Handbook was completed after many long months of toiling by Laurie.

-Brian attended a meeting with Peter Soloway, computer consultant, to assess the computer needs of the Watershed.

-All worked together to write a year-to-date AmeriCorps Report for our parent employer, NRCS.

STREAMWATCH

-Marie and Barbara have been working on the Rapid Bio-Assessment component of StreamWatch. Together they collected samples from four sites along the Stony Brook and spent three lab days analyzing their finds.

-Marie's efforts w/ Barb's assistance have yielded a Rapid Bio-Assessment Volunteer Handbook.

-Brian was helpful in the set-up of the Annual StreamWatch Picnic.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT

-We have been receiving our first reports from StreamWalkers in the Stony Brook Region.

-Brian spent many long hours dividing the Millstone River into "Beats" to be monitored by River Action Team volunteers.

-Brian and Dilhara worked together to set-up and conduct a volunteer training session for the Upper Millstone StreamWalkers which over fifty in attendance.

-Brian researched and arranged, with the aid of Pat, the purchase of a computer for our new GIS software package.

-Brian also picked up and installed our copy of ARCVIEW II from the DEP. He is also in contact with the GIS department at DEP regarding data development for the system.

-Laurie and Brian met with Dilhara and the Director of the Delaware and Raritan Girl Scout Council to discuss a partnership for a storm drain stencilling project.

-Laurie has been busy creating the stencil design and researching/writing grants for the project.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

-Barb is assisting in the creation and preparation of the Thursday Preschool Program series. She is also solely responsible for teaching that series.

-Marie and Barbara put up the coop course.

-Marie and Barbara participated in summer camp staff training and both continue to teach summer group programs (Insect Safari and Who Lives There?)

-With the assistance of other educational staff members, Barbara is preparing a wild flower display for the Buttinger Nature Center.

-Marie attended the NJ Agricultural Society's farm tours for teachers.

-Both Barbara and Marie participated in the Fossil Hunting public program.

Barbara Anne Renk - AmeriCorps Experience

Have you ever seen a sparkle in a child's eye? It's one of the most beautiful experiences to be a part in causing that sparkle, and it's also the reason I wanted to be an AmeriCorps volunteer here at the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association. I've always loved nature and children, and I've been able to inspire and encourage that love for nature, or at least an appreciation for nature, in the children I've been teaching here. These children will be the leaders, teachers, and developers of tomorrow and if I can reach even a few of them, perhaps later in life they will stop and remember those lessons I taught. Perhaps, they will remember how precious our environment is and take the time to protect it.

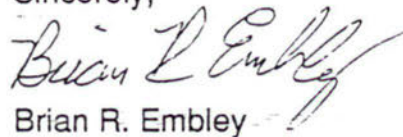
My experiences here have been wonderful and enlightening. I've seen and inspired that sparkle in a child's eye whether by stopping and allowing them time to explore a field for themselves or by pretending what it would be like to be a rabbit under the multiflora rose bushes or by just stopping to really smell the flowers. Now, after all my experiences here, I have realized that I have the talent and skills to be a naturalist, which has given me the direction to pursue this as a career.

June 26, 1995

Upon first joining Americorps I welcomed the opportunity to work on behalf of the natural environment as part of a National Service Initiative. Other than that I had little idea what these ten months would hold. By some magnificent stroke of luck I was stationed at the Stony Brook-Watershed Association and experienced more than I could ever have imagined. From sweating through trail work, using computers, working with volunteers to influence the way in which land is used, research projects, helping children to see the beauty of the natural world, attending symposiums and conferences, partnership building with various groups and agencies, helping out on an organic farm, to assisting in the coordination of a watershed wide environmental planning project, my exposure to different aspects of environmental work feels limitless.

Perhaps the most valuable experience is the people that I have been working with as an Americorps Member at the Watershed Association. It is truly inspiring to see how a few dedicated individuals with limited resources can accomplish so much on behalf of the natural environment. It is from the people involved with Americorps and the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association that I am indebted and look forward to working with over the next fourteen months.

Sincerely,



Brian R. Embley

Accomplishments of AmeriCorps Volunteers
at Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association Site
November 1, 1994 - June 30, 1995

- * Taught 132 environmental education programs to 2,300 school children. Increased program participation by 30%
- * Organized 5-mile clean-up along D&R Canal with assistance of students from 12 area high schools
- * Assisted in day-long Earth Day celebration that brought 2,000 area families to Watershed Nature Reserve.
- * Expanded after-school and pre-school educational offerings to families who would have been turned away.
- * Developed rapid bio-assessment program to monitor water quality along 30 miles of streams within watershed. Trained 10 volunteers to sample on a monthly basis, analyze and submit findings to the Watershed Association.
- * Organized comprehensive visual assessment program to monitor water quality along 60 miles of rivers within watershed. Recruited and trained 75 residents to streamwalk two mile "beats" on a quarterly basis and submit findings to Watershed Association.
- * Responded to numerous citizen complaints of pollution problems in local waterways. Brought in proper authorities to mediate the problems.
- * Develop a database of environmental ordinances within 26 watershed municipalities for use by local government and environmental commissions.
- * Help launch a new initiative to create a long-term management and protection plan for stream corridors within the watershed region.
- * Wrote comprehensive volunteer handbooks for water quality monitoring and recruitment purposes.
- * Conducted countless outreach programs for high schools, local government and community organizations on non-point source pollution and water quality monitoring programs.
- * Developed exhibits, hang community art shows, managed coffeehouses at the newly opened Watershed Education Center.
- * Built 15 foot bridges and managed the land along an 8-mile trail network owned by the Watershed Association.
- * Restored a 3-acre arboretum on a portion of the Nature Reserve.

A Week in the Life of An Americorps Member

MONDAY: Newspaper article completed and submitted to local newspaper editor.

Apr 25, 95 TUESDAY: 150 mile round trip along Highway 10. Observed Eco-Challenge race start at 7 AM on San Rafael Desert. Visited with Clawson farmer, Bob Riley, to gather information on possible future news articles. Then on to Moore to interview Orvel Allen, a third generation farmer in Emery County. Next went to Emery to the Humus Plant, Miracle Rock Mine, Inc. and interviewed Dave Taylor, the owner. Made arrangements for a tour of his mine site next month. Back to Ferron and visited with Florence Petty, a cousin to Lloyd and Floyd Behunin, 70+-year old brothers, who operate a second generation fruit farm. She called and made arrangements for me to interview them next week. Ate a quick lunch and then to the Ratite farm in Castle Dale. Mrs Israelsen gave me a tour as I interviewed her. Went to the court house and visited with Rose Ann Filmore, the County Economic Development Director, about future projects. Called Carol Ware concerning service projects in Emery County during "Take Pride in Utah" week. Visited with Dennis Worwood, Utah State University Extension Agent, about farming practices in Emery County. Got some super leads. Went to Huntington for meeting with Sherri Gordon, to finalize our arrangements for our coal mine tour Thursday. Then back to office in Price where I made some follow-up calls concerning our service project tomorrow. Home by 5:30.

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WEDNESDAY: Answered my voice mail calls. Made several calls and brought my daily journal up to date. Went to the store and picked up the ice cream and dry ice that they donated. Went on to Wellington where I assisted DeLoy and Betty Anderson in making the root beer for our volunteers. Began laying lawn sod, shrubs, trees, and flowers on Wellington's City Hall grounds. The folks contacted earlier to assist all showed up. They included the NRCS, RC&D, BSA, local citizens, and all our Southeastern Utah Americorps team. We transformed that barren site into a beautifully landscaped yard. Home by 7 PM.

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THURSDAY: Met with fellow team members, after addressing needs at my desk, and left for the Cottonwood Coal Mine above Orangeville. Our tour guide, Kevin Tuttle, gave us an hour-plus training course then we suited up and went on an extensive and educational 6 mile tour of Energy West's modern coal mine. We got to watch the long wall cutting machine in action. After that experience we went to Cleveland to visit Bernice Payne's Ratite ranch. She owns Ostrich, Emu, and Rheas. They were cattle ranchers, now they hope to do well in this new venture. Home by 6PM.

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FRIDAY: Left the office at 9 to check on our team T Shirts, then on to Wilson's Arch on US 191 past Monticello to clean up the parking areas and roadsides for a 4 mile area. There were 9 of us and it took us till 4 PM to finish. Back to Monticello to spend the night.

Apr 29, 95 SATURDAY: Pulled a stiff body out of bed, ate breakfast and drove to Blanding to the newly acquired San Juan Food Bank building. We, nine of us, commenced to move things out of the building and clean the walls preparatory to painting the entire four rooms and bath. We pitched in with fervor and completed the task by 3 PM. Drove the 170 miles back home.

Comments on Week's Activities

This week has been a source of great satisfaction to me of tasks met and completed. Much has been gained personally. My knowledge expanded, friendships increased, self-confidence is more durable and my resolve to serve more resolute. Above all it was fun!

Whenever I travel through Wellington I will observe with pleasure and a sense of pride the beautiful landscaping accomplished by a determined, friendly team of volunteers. A monument to the dreams and efforts of City Treasurer, Kent Powell and all those that were involved.

As I travel along US 191 I will be more cognizant of the efforts of those worthwhile citizens who willingly clean up America's roadways, roadways littered by thoughtless or uncaring persons. Beautiful scenery such as that in the vicinity of Wilson's Arch is marred by carelessly tossed garbage along it's way. I take satisfaction in my efforts as a team member to have helped clean a portion of that area. I, however, feel saddened knowing that in a short time our efforts will eventually be covered again with human-caused litter. I have hope that some

observers of our efforts will be less careless from now on.

The San Juan County Food Bank building was an effort with a purpose. This project, while not directly putting food into the mouths of the needy, will be a more pleasant place to work and store food in, and more pleasing on the eyes of those who enter it.

Contributions that have a lasting effect are the most gratifying. I feel that setting such an example of involving oneself in public service will cause thoughtful people to eventually adopt service into their lifestyle. This is our (Americorps) purpose, to get things done.

Americorps is for America and I'm proud to wear both labels, Americorps\American!

Submitted by Eldon Miller

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Price, Utah Team member

WATER... THEN AND NOW

Today I did something a little out of the ordinary. How many people in our communities have actually been on a tour of our local water treatment systems?

Jack Stoyanoff treated a group of us to an interesting and informative tour of the North Emery Water Users Association water treatment plant in Huntington Canyon.

Mike Knop added greatly to our water treatment knowledge with an extensive tour of Castle Valley Special Service District's Emery facility.

Darrell Leamaster generously provided me with many facts and figures that were rather surprising and thought provoking.

These treatment facilities are simple, yet complex, plants composed of gauges, compartments, tanks, chemicals, etc. processing nearly 464 million gallons of culinary water yearly. That is more water than Cleveland Reservoir holds. Secondary (outdoor use) water totals another 4,326 acre foot. The North Emery Water Users Association filter plant processes another 50 million gallons yearly. That adds up to quite a puddle of water.

If that is a little surprising to you, then think on this. It is estimated that it takes one acre-foot of water (about 326,00 gallons, or enough to fill a football field to a depth of one foot) to supply the needs of an average family of five for one year.

In considering my personal water use, I thought it wasn't likely that I use 178 gallons each day. Then I was reminded that the water used for laundry, lawn, car washing, etc. needs to be

taken into account. The largest percentage of water use inside the house is not bathing (30%) but toilet use (40%). As a result of my enlightenment I'm going to look into water-saving devices for my shower and toilets. I'll be more conservation minded also.

Oh the good old days. Do you remember the days when you drank and washed with water from the irrigation ditches? You probably don't if you were born after the 1930's.

I remember how, as a boy, I would flatten my stomach on the ditch bank, sink my face into the running water so as not to suck up the floating debris and drink my fill, only to find a few grains of sand between my teeth despite efforts to avoid it.

I remember, also, how living in Clawson one of my chores was to fetch a bucket of water from the large wooden barrel of ditch water to the wash stand. The barrel was about twenty-five yards from the house. Washing oneself was quite a ritual also. The water was to be thrown outdoors, away from the walkway. Any water used to wash hands was thrown out. Water for face washing was kept to be used for the next person's hands.

I usually didn't mind fetching the bucket of water for the wash stand. Filling the barrel when it was low took too long so I would try to make myself scarce when that was necessary.

After filling the barrel we would skim the floating material off the top, and after several hours the dirt and sand would sink to the bottom and, PRESTO, "clean" water, or so it looked to be anyway.

Water! How wonderful to sneak up to the town settling pond and go skinny dipping. Or, to dam up a little irrigation ditch

while herding cows, and with a few of our buddies from the surrounding fields try to swim in less than a foot of water. Water! How I loved to swim and play in it. Water! How I used to dread it when my mother would notice that distinctive boundary between my face and neck. After repeated commands over a period of time to be a little more generous with the soap and water and the area it was to reach, Mom finally took things into her own hands. Things like a wash cloth (that had the feel of sandpaper) and some hot soapy water. Soon my ears and neck would take on a pinkish and rather foreign look for the next few days.

We must have been either tremendously lucky or our systems were accustomed to the microorganisms in our water in those days. I suspect the first since there were over 2,000 cases of typhoid fever in Utah in the early 1900's. Many people died.

Today we take our water for granted. Even during drought years we tend to waste it. Perhaps if we had to fill the washing machine and rinse tubs by hand, or if we had to carry water from a cistern or ditch for a number 4 tub to bathe in then carry them outside to empty, we might be a little more respectful and conservative of this precious resource.

Nearly all human development brings with it unwanted pollutants. Many lakes and rivers in Utah are sick because of human thoughtfulness.

Utah is the second driest state in the nation. Since most of our water falls in the mountains and runs off in the spring and early summer it is essential to store what we can in reservoirs. We use these reservoirs for recreation. Let us use

them thoughtfully and respectfully.

We should do our part to help keep our waters clean and disease free. Visit your local water treatment facility. These people will be glad to show you around and bring you up to date on what they are doing to help protect your health and welfare.

Let's each do our part. Don't drink contaminated water. Don't swim in your culinary water supply. Do conserve water. Do treat all our water resources with the respect necessary for a safe water supply always.

If you would like to know more about wise water use there is information available from the Utah Division of Water Resources, 1636 West North Temple, SLC UT 84116

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